

Biodiesel tank available for government vehicles, equipment

Central location assists in increasing use of biofuels

By: Robin Jenkins

A cleaner form of fuel is now more readily available for state operated equipment. A new 10,000-gallon biodiesel tank has been installed at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Division of Equipment on Wilkinson Street in Frankfort.

The site was established as a central location where state vehicle operators could obtain biodiesel. It is a cooperative project of KYTC, the Finance and Administration Cabinet, the Energy and Environment Cabinet and Fleet One, the fuel card service provider for Kentucky state government.

A pilot project began in April 2004 to test the use of biodiesel in state vehicles. Usage has increased steadily with no performance or maintenance issues. However, with only eight private sites throughout the state, availability was limited.

"As stewards of the environment and taxpayer dollars, we're continuously looking for new ways we can do business more efficiently," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. "The availability and convenience of this site will encourage more of our equipment and vehicle operators to utilize biodiesel more often."

Biodiesel is non-petroleum-based diesel fuel, typically made with a blend of vegetable oils or animal fats. It can be used alone or blended with conventional diesel. The use of biodiesel has been shown to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

KYTC utilizes approximately 3,000 pieces of diesel-powered equipment. Any state, city or county government entity utilizing Fleet One may use the new facility. The tank location is well lit, easily accessible for large vehicles and equipment, and is available 24 hours. □

Restore Award Nomination

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Kentucky recently held its 2008 Engineering Excellence Awards Ceremony in Frankfort. The "I-64 Riverside Expressway – Restore 64" project was nominated by project design firm PB Americas. This project was one of 13 finalists at the awards ceremony and received the highest honor, the Grand Conceptor Award. Congratulations to all District 5 employees who participated in this project from conception to completion. □



L to R: Barbara Michael (PB), Carl Jenkins (KYTC), Shawn Dikes (PB), Tom Wright (KYTC), Kevin Bailey (KYTC), Mike Baron (PB), Scott Walker (PB), Lindsay Walker (PB), Arlen Sandlin (PB), Andrea Clifford (KYTC), Chris Poe (KYTC).